

Notice of Exemption

To: Office of Planning and Research
PO Box 3044
1400 Tenth Street, Room 2
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Inland Deserts Region
Bishop Field Office
787 N. Main Street, Suite 220
Bishop, CA 93514

Project Title: Tecopa Groundwater Monitoring Drought Emergency Project

Project Location: The project will be located on the 84-acre Tecopa Ecological Reserve in Inyo County, State of California; the Project is located in Section 33, Township 21 North, Range 7 East SBM, USGS Resting Spring and Tecopa Quadrangle maps.

Project Description: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (“CDFW”) proposes to install up to 12 temporary piezometers at Tecopa Ecological Reserve. This would involve hand auguring one small (3 inch diameter) hole per installation and placing temporary PVC piezometers into the holes with minimal ground disturbance. This work would allow CDFW to monitor groundwater levels in and around shallow groundwater-dependent ecosystems supporting rare plants and special status animal species. This Project is subject to the Governor’s Emergency 10-19-2021 Drought Proclamation because it involves a state agency entering into a contract to assess drought-related threats to special status species at Tecopa Ecological Reserve.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Person or Agency Carrying out Project: California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Exempt Status:

- Ministerial:
- Declared Emergency: Governor’s Proclamation of State of Emergency, October 19, 2021
- Emergency Project:
- Categorical Exemption:

Reasons why Project is exempt:

In an Emergency Proclamation issued October 19, 2021, Governor Gavin Newsom directed state agencies in Paragraph 6 of the Proclamation to enter into contracts to procure materials, goods, and services necessary to protect public health and the environment. Paragraph 12 of the Proclamation suspends CEQA for purposes of carrying out this directive to the extent necessary to address the impacts of the drought.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Aaron Johnson, (760) 872-1171, Aaron.Johnson@wildlife.ca.gov

Signature: DocuSigned by:
Chris Hayes _____ **Date:** 12/19/2022
32BC6E3B38384BD...
 Chris Hayes, Environmental Program Manager

Signed by Lead Agency Date Received for filing at OPR: _____